A Study of Problems and Prospects of Banana Producing Farmers in Nanded District

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1. Introduction

The agriculture sector is undoubtedly the most important sector of Indian economy as it provides employment to 54.6% of people and the food security of India revolves around this sector. Consistent with the trends of economic development at national level, the role of agricultural sector in the state economies is also changing rapidly. India has huge agricultural area with good production but growth agricultural sector only 4% and contribution in GDP is only 16%. Despite declining share of agriculture in the economy, the majority of workforce continues to depend on the agricultural sector for employment and in rural areas dependence on agriculture is more as nearly 75 per cent of rural population is employed in the agricultural sector. The Government encourages cultivation of horticultural crops like banana, mango, flowers, vegetables etc., so as to increase the contribution of agriculture to national income India is the second largest producer of bananas in the world, after Brazil. India exports small quantities of bananas mostly to Bahrain, Germany, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the USA. Among fruits and vegetables, the banana is a prominent and special crop with its peculiarities such as non-seasonal character, one-year gestation period, single bunch output, and perishability in seven to ten days.

2. Banana Cultivation

Banana is the oldest and most common fruit known to mankind. In India, bananas rank next only to mango in area and production, occupying 83 lakh hectares and having an annual production of 46.26 lakh tonnes. The important banana-growing states in India are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal, Bihar and Gujarat. Nowadays banana has become a popular and important profitable fruit crop in Maharashtra. Banana production enterprises have great prospects. These prospects could be in the area of job creation and employment generation; contributions to national income and gross domestic product (GDP); wealth creation; poverty alleviation; economic

and industrial growth; others are rural development; market stabilization and sustainable agricultural returns. Banana is the most nutritious fruit of all fruits. Owing to its greater socio-economic significance and multifaceted uses, it is referred to as 'Kalpatharu'. Banana fruit is a wonder berry, which forms the staple food of millions of people across the globe, providing more balanced food than any other fruit or vegetable. It contains eleven vitamins, which include, vitamins important ones are A, B and C. Although fat and protein contents are very low, the fruit is rich in minerals. In India, bananas have been cultivated since time immemorial. Banana is the second most important fruit crop in India next to mango. Bananas are available throughout the year and being relatively less expensive compared to other fruits, can be called a fruit of the masses. In India, Banana is the most important fruit ranking next to Mango in area and production. The total area under banana production in India is 4, 64,000 acres. It comprises 15 per cent of the area under fruits. The banana cultivation is concentrated mostly in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Most of the Assam and Bengal consist of small backyard plantations. Banana cultivation has considerable economic importance, while banana is considered merely an article of food in the West, in India, it is a plant of manifold uses. Though it is one of the major fruit crops, the farmers are facing many problems in respect of production and pricing.

3. Review of Literature

Semban (1991) in his study titled "Economics of Banana Cultivation in Tiruchirappalli District" focused on the efficient use of resources in banana cultivation in Tiruchirappalli district for 3 years. He studied three varieties in three areas.

T. Radha and L. Mathew (2005) stated in their study that mango, Banana, Citrus and grapes are the major tropical fruits dominating internal markets Bananas rank third in an area covering about 13% and are in first position in terms of production. They also found that India has been credited with being the target fruit producer in the world, but it is estimated that 20 to 22% of produce is lost due to spoilage at various post-harvest stages. Improvement of facilities like per-cooling, cold storage, and transport are considered as major areas demanding immediate attention, to reduce post-harvest losses. They also

focused on the export situation of India. India exports only less than 0.5% of total fruit crop production indicating poor export potential.

Raghavendra, Naduvinamani et.al (2007) Stated in his study entitled "Economics of Banana Cultivation in Tiruchirappalli District of Tamil Nadu" that India has been a transcendently agrarian economy ever since time immemorial. The advancement endeavors throughout the former four decades have certainly reinforced our mechanical base. Be that as it may, farming keeps on being the spine of India's economy even today. That review has been attempted to study the financial aspects of banana production under contract cultivating in Karnataka.

Simmonds (1982) observed in his study, the economic characteristics of banana. The return from banana cultivation is quick as it can be harvested in a year. But the banana cultivation demands more fertilizers and water. The labour requirements and income from banana vary with season.

B.R. Pawar (2010) in his study "Marketed Surplus and Price Spread in Marketing Channels of Banana, expressed the cost idea for banana" forty-eight drips irrigated and forty-eight floods irrigated banana producers were arbitrarily chosen from eight towns of Ardhapur tehsil of Nanded district in Maharashtra for the study. Cross-sectional information was accumulated from the banana cultivators with the assistance of pretested plan by individual interview technique. The cost idea of cost-A, cost-B and cost-C was utilized to scrutinize the information.

Mrs. Vincy (2016) in his study titled "the production and marketing of banana in vilavancodetaluk" he has observed that banana is one of the most important major fruit crops grown in India. It is a nutritious food used by both the rich and the poor. The development of poor people in vilavancode is mainly depends on the production of banana. He suggested that To improve the production the government should take necessary Steps to help the farmers by fulfilling their financial needs. The problems faced by them should be rectified. If the farmers get income from production and marketing of banana, his status in Society will improve. If the bananas are exported to other states they will get more income.

4. Statement of the problem:

Nanded district occupies a unique place in the cultivation of banana crops. However, no specific crop-based study covering the area of Nanded is available. It is necessary to examine the problems of the banana crop. Therefore, the present study is entitled "the study of Problems and Prospects of Banana Growing Farmers in Nanded Districts"

5. Need of Study:

The cultivation of bananas is a very important source of income, employment and export earnings for major banana-exporting countries. To cope with the increasing demands the area of banana cultivation is also expanding. In this situation, it is necessary to assess the issues and problems of banana growers particularly Nanded District of Maharashtra state. Banana farmers are facing numerous problems in the production process and the marketing of bananas. Banana farmers are facing many problems like financial, production, transportation, pricing, climate conditions, labour problems etc. Suicidal thoughts can be triggered due to these problems. Therefore, the presented study is an attempt to throw light on the cost of production, and pricing of bananas in Western Maharashtra. The present study will be useful for banana cultivators, new-generation farmers, the Horticulture Department, the Government, various selling mediators and middlemen.

6. Objectives of the study

- To study the profile of banana-producing farmers in Nanded District.
- To Assess the agricultural practices of banana cultivating farmers.
- To study the various issues and problems faced by banana cultivators in the study area.
- To suggest measures to improve the productivity of bananas, income level and standard of life of banana cultivators.

7. Hypothesis of the study

Based on the above-framed objectives, the following hypotheses are formulated.

- H0 There is no significant relationship between the income level and the problems of banana-producing farmers.
- H1 There is a significant relationship between the income level and the problems of banana-producing farmers.

- H0 There is no significant relationship between the size of land holding and the problems of banana-producing farmers
- H1 There is a significant relationship between the size of land holdings and the problems of banana-producing farmers.
- H0 There is no significance between education and the problems of banana-producing farmers
- H1 There is a significance between education and the problems of banana-producing farmers

8. Study Area and Methodology

Area of Study

The study area for the research study is Nanded District in the State of Maharashtra.

Research Methodology

To achieve the above objectives, the following research methodology will be adopted:

Data Collection

The present research is based on primary and secondary data to accomplish the objectives and hypothesis of the study. They constitute the main sources of information suitable for research work.

A) Primary data: -

Primary data will be collected randomly from the sampled banana-producing farmers of the Nanded district through a well-structured interview schedule.

B) Secondary data: -

Secondary will be collected from books, various journals, articles, newspapers, annual reports etc. Primary & secondary data will be used to prove the objectives & hypothesis of the study.

Sample size

The sample universe for the Present research study is the Nanded district from the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. There are sixteen tahsils in the Nanded district, out of which three, Ardhapur, Mudkhed and Nanded were selected purposively based on the maximum area under banana cultivation. Eight villages from each selected tahsil were randomly selected for the study, and from each

village ten banana growers were selected randomly through a convenient sampling method thus the total sample comprised 240 respondents for the study.

9. Chapter Scheme

The proposed study 'A Study of Problems and Prospects of Banana Producing Farmers in Nanded District' will be organized and presented in six chapters.

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter will be introductory in nature. This chapter contains the Concept of Agriculture, an overview of the Agriculture Sector in India and banana cultivation, problems of banana producing farmers in India.

Chapter II: Review of literature

The second chapter will describe the review of relevant past literature on various aspects of banana crop cultivation. In this chapter, the researcher will discuss review of various Research papers in national & international journals, a thesis and dissertation.

Chapter III: Research methodology

The third chapter will describe the Research methods and techniques used in conducting this research. It will contain an introduction of the research methodology, objectives of the study, the hypothesis of the study, statement of the problem, sampling size, and scope & limitation of the study.

Chapter IV: Socio-Economic Profile of Banana producing Farmers

The Forth chapter of the study will describe the Major components of socioeconomic conditions of sample banana producing households in Nanded district.

Chapter V: Data Analysis and Interpretation

The fifth chapter will relate with the collection, analysis, and interpretation of the primary data which complied with the help of a structured questionnaire from the banana producing respondent farmers. It shows the results of the data analysis utilized to answer the research questions for this study.

Chapter VI: Summary of findings, Conclusions, and Suggestions

The sixth chapter will contain the summary, findings, conclusions, and suggestions of study.

10. References

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